

Border Eagle

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Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

May 6, 2005

Runway project complete, flightline ops back to normal

By Capt. Paula Kurtz
Public Affairs

More than 16 months after design engineers first put pen to paper, Laughlin's \$11.1 million outer runway project is complete and flying operations have returned to normal.

The outer runway reopened to T-38 traffic on April 29, after engineers wrapped up four months of work, including repaving, adding 1000 feet of new surface to each end, adding new shoulders, replacing navigational aids, and replacing asphalt with concrete on Taxiway G.

Although the work took only four months to complete, planning for the project began more than a year in advance and required on-going coordination between operations, maintenance, and many support agencies.

Starting in January 2004, technical experts at the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron drafted the design plan for the runway refurbishments and additions, and provided the 47th Contracting Squadron with the specifications for the statement of work. Once a contract



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

First Lieutenant Chad "Sheeterz" Fuller and Maj. Nate "Buster" Jaros, 87th Flying Training Squadron pilots, 'touched down' on the outside runway open for use April 29 after a 4-month renovation. Lieutenant Fuller and Major Jaros are the first two pilots to take off and land on the newly renovated outside runway.

was signed, the 47th CES worked with 47th Security Forces Squadron to allow the contractor access to the worksite, which lies in a restricted area, and with the 47th Communications Squadron to identify and work around significant airfield communication issues.

"The biggest challenge was getting everyone on the same page," said 2nd Lt. Nathan Olsen, pavement engineer and project manager with the 47th CES. "There were a lot of bumps, but because of the great coordination, we were able to smooth problems over quickly and move along with the project."

While base support agencies hammered out the project's logistical details, members of the 47th Operations

Group and 47th Maintenance Directorate focused on a plan they dubbed CORRAL – Closed Outside Runway Requirements at Laughlin.

"Our job was to figure out how we were going to continue to meet the SUPT mission with only two runways," explained Maj. Robert Dahlke, 47th Operations Support Squadron assistant director of operations and leader of the CORRAL planning effort. "At Laughlin, it's a huge impact to take one of those runways away. Other bases don't have the volume of departures and arrivals we have here," he said, allud-

See 'Outside runway,' page 4

Astronaut visits Laughlin, speaks at SUPT graduation

By 2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston
Public Affairs

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 05-08 hosted an Air Force astronaut, and the first non-pilot graduation speaker in recent history, here April 29.

Col. Susan Helms, Deputy Director of Operations for Technical Training in Air Education and Training Command, has milestones on her résumé that made her the perfect candidate to speak at an SUPT graduation here.

The first was her graduation from

the United States Air Force Academy with the class of 1980, the first class with women graduates.

Next, she commissioned as a flight-test engineer where she went on to participate in an exchange program with Canada.

Then, she worked with NASA as an astronaut for 12 years where she visited space five times and accomplished a world record 8 hour and 56 minute space walk and lived on the international space station for six months working with Russian cosmonauts.

And now, the colonel helps direct

all non-flying training throughout AETC.

Colonel Helms said, while there are as many as 2,000 flying students at any one time, there are tens of thousands of technical training students (non flyers) for whom she creates training policies. She equates the curriculum and training she's involved with to a large and complex piece of machinery. She envisions her job as one that makes "the machine" work.

"I see my role as trying to make sure that (the machine) works as efficiently

See 'Astronaut,' page 4

Newslines

Change of command

Col. David Petersen will assume command of the 47th Operations Group in a ceremony today at 10 a.m. in Hangar 1, Building 50. All base members are invited.

Office closures

The 47th Contracting Squadron will close for an official function at 9 a.m. today.

Finance customer service will close at 3 p.m. today for a commander's call.

Call the command post at 298-5167 for emergencies.

Daedalian scholarship

The George Beverly Flight of the Order of the Daedalians here is sponsoring scholarships.

Those attending an accredited four-year college or university, who have applied for and been admitted, or have demonstrated the desire and potential to pursue a career as a commissioned military pilot, are eligible to apply.

For details call Lew Nunley at 298-5430 or 774-0278.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	37
Returning in 30 days:	2
Deploying in 30 days:	28

Mission status

Mission capable rate
(As of Tuesday)

T-1, 81.3%	T-38A, 89.2%
T-6, 93.5%	T-38C, 78.2%

Alcohol-related incidents

January to May 2004 8

Jan. 1 to May 5, 2005 13

Days since last incident 27

How proud are you of our troops?



Commander's Corner

Col. Tim Sowin
47th Aeromedical-Dental
Squadron commander

We flew low and fast over the pitch black desert terrain. Reaching the urban lighting of Baghdad, its Arabic architecture punctuated how far we were from home.

In an instant, the night sky filled with arching tracer fire, directed more at the sound than the sight of our Blackhawk. Our arrival at the helipad of the combat surgical hospital was almost surreal. I remember running with the litter toward the waiting emergency response staff.

Our patient now safe, the flight medic and I hastened to restock some medical supplies. We were quite a sight — drenched in sweat, splashed with blood, and coated with the fine dust of the Iraqi desert. Like a smooth running NASCAR crew, ER staff handed us bottles of cool water. Low on fuel, our mission aircraft, Dustoff 27, had already departed the medical helipad for

a hot re-fueling at a base about five minutes away. Fifteen minutes for us to wait at the ER. I noticed my hands were shaking some. Sadly, that was about normal. "Adrenaline," I told myself. That's when I noticed him — a young Air Force security forces troop pacing back and forth and choking back his tears.

His buddy had just been terribly wounded. His vehicle hit by a rocket propelled grenade, the shrapnel rattled around inside the Humvee with no mercy. Both legs, one arm, and the thumb of his remaining hand were all severed. Self-aid buddy care was all that kept his friend alive until the Dustoff crew worked their magic.

(Did you pay close attention to SABC training when you took it?) Determined to find his buddy's thumb so that a surgeon might re-attach it, this young man was devastated when he realized it wasn't going to happen.

I gave him my bottle of cool water and a granola bar that I had in my flight suit. This remarkable young man wasn't crying for himself. He was working 14 hours a day, seven days a week. In his off time, he went to the gym, played spades, or played video games at a place that Services ran for our troops to have something to do at any time

of the day or night. He worried about his buddies and his wife back home. He wished he hadn't started giving Iraqi kids bottled water and MREs. It wasn't that he didn't enjoy their laughter and smiles as they ran to their mothers with their treasures. It was that he worried what might happen if an improvised explosive device intended for him was ever detonated in their midst.

He set his jaw and he told me, "I'm going to be OK Sir ... You guys (meaning the flight medic and me) be careful out there. Thanks for talkin' to me ... You kind of remind me of my dad. Rock on, Sir."

I told him those sounded like some pretty big boots for me to fill, but that I knew his dad had every reason to be proud of a son like him. As I walked out to the helicopter I was struck with the thought, "Where do we find men and women like this?" I had no answer, save for that they are gifts from God. Heroes, pure and simple.

Next time you see a security forces troop, give some thought to where they've been, to what they've done, to what they've seen, and to what they're willing to do for all of us. To me, they're all heroes. I am way proud to know some of them. How about you?

Today's Airmen serve generations yet unborn

By Maj. Joel Fortenberry
509th Contracting Squadron
commander

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — Leon Alton Palmer was born April 27, 1945, in Mableton, Ga., the son of Nelly and Arvel Palmer. On Aug. 17, 1968, Sgt. Leon A. Palmer, C Company, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, was killed in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam. He was

23 years old and left behind a daughter, Linda, and son, Tony.

Over 8,000 miles away on that same August Saturday, I was born in Tyler, Texas. I was born free and have known nothing but freedom for all 36 years of my life.

On Sept. 15, 2003, Army Staff Sgt Kevin C. Kimmerly, of North Creek, N.Y., was killed when his vehicle was hit by a rocket propelled grenade while on patrol in Baghdad. Later that same day,

far from the chaos of Iraq, my son was born in Dayton, Ohio. He was born free and has known nothing but freedom for all 19 months of his short life.

Because you serve today, on the flight line or off, in a flight suit, BDUs or civilian clothes, a child whose name you may never know was born free. Because you repaired a network or guided a convoy, because you corrected

See 'Generations,' page 3

Border Eagle

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262.

Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.

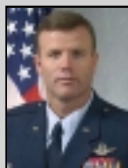
Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."

— 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

Air Force family unites through tragedy

Airmen make a difference through ultimate sacrifices

By Master Sgt. Randy Phelps
*Air Force Special Operations
Command public affairs*

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — April 5 was both one of the saddest and proudest days of my life.

As a new member of Air Force Special Operations Command, one of my first duties was to travel to Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, to help support the 352nd Special Operations Group after one of its MC-130H Combat Talon IIs crashed in Albania during a joint/combined training exercise March 31.

Nine of our fellow Airmen lost their lives. I didn't know them, but yet, I did.

They were like you and me, serving our country with a belief that we're making a difference at home and around the world. In uniform, there is no difference between these nine Airmen and the thousands of other men and women who have given their lives in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Panama or any other place American military members have gone to defend the interests of the United States.

There is a big difference

between people who wear the uniform and those who don't.

Policemen understand. So do firemen. We serve to protect others, and it helps forge a bond many people will never understand.

I have felt it many times over the past 23 years, but never as strong as this day.

The base held a candlelight vigil.

I would estimate several hundred men, women and children were there.

Families of some of the lost Airmen stood alongside fellow squadron members and others from different units around the base.

It was a somber ceremony, and I couldn't hold back the tears as I watched people I'd never met grieve for their loved ones.

I wasn't alone.

My brothers and sisters, fellow Airmen and Department of Defense employees, were all around me.

They were feeling the same pain, grieving for the families and coworkers. I realized again, that I belong to a family larger than I can imagine. And I'm truly blessed.

I have a lovely wife and children. I'm also a proud grandfather. But, I have got thousands of brothers and sisters who understand the commitment, the sacrifice and the ultimate price some of us pay in our efforts to

keep the world a little safer for our children.

It makes me proud of each and every one of us. I am proud of the families that continue to

"There is a big difference between people who wear the uniform and those who don't. Policemen understand. So do firemen. We serve to protect others, and it helps forge a bond many people will never understand. I have felt it many times over the past 23 years, but never as strong as this day."

support us when we're called away for extended periods, to lands far away, in the defense of freedom.

But mostly, I am proud of my extended family in uniform. You leave the farms, cities and suburbs with a higher calling to serve.

You sign up to defend your country, knowing that the job is inherently dangerous and could possibly claim the ultimate sacrifice. You do it despite the lower pay and multiple moves, uprooting your family every few years to start anew.

Yet, there you are, standing next to me in good times and bad.

I know I can count on you, and you know you can count on me. That is the difference.

Generations, from page 2

a personnel record and made sure Airmen were paid, because you stood watch at the base perimeter, because you built a base exchange facility in the desert, because you wrote the contract and repaired a runway, because you flew a mission or repaired the aircraft with unmatched skill and expertise, a child was born free today.

What an honor and privilege we have in this Air Force and this nation to ensure freedom is the

birthright to new generations of Americans. Because of you, a child was born free today in Tyler, Texas; in Dayton, Ohio; in towns all over this country. But also because of you, children were born free today in cities called Kabul and Bagram, Baghdad and Tallil. Freedom isn't earned and its survival isn't guaranteed. Rather freedom is given to us by the grace of God and the character of those willing to sacrifice all to see it live on. Those like Leon Palmer, Kevin Kimmerly and you. Thank you.

May is Military Spouse Appreciation Month!

Order the Air Force spouse pin given to the wives and husbands of Airmen and civilians in appreciation of the sacrifices they make for their spouse's service.

You may order other Military One Source educational materials for couples online by visiting: www.militaryonesource.com or call (800) 342-9647 for information.



Astronaut, from page 1

as possible for the stakeholders who are involved with creating and executing technical training," she said.

An astronaut for 12 years, Col. Helms said unlike most military members who are assigned to a base, she was assigned to Houston, Texas as her duty station. During this time she had a variety of experiences that she condensed into three things she "wished she knew as a lieutenant." After Col. Tod D. Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, introduced Brigadier General-select Helms as a courageous, compassionate and competitive individual with more than 5,000 hours in space, she shared three anecdotes with the graduating class.

Colonel Helms' first story was about her initial trip into space. The commander of the shuttle decided to stay awake as many hours as possible to make sure he knew what was going on with the mission. After days of sleeping only two hours or so per night, despite scheduled sleep time, he threw a switch the wrong way and could have caused software corruption upon re-entry to the

earth's atmosphere. Although everything worked out in the end, the moral of the story was, "Always get enough sleep," she said. When she mentioned how "mom" was right about this one, the mothers in the room erupted in applause.

Her second story involved her living on the international space station for 6 months with a joint crew of Americans and Russians. The crew commander, a Russian cosmonaut, was one of the best leaders she said she had encountered. The three-member crew trained together in the U.S. and Russia for about 4 years.

After living on the space station for five months, Colonel Helms asked the crew commander, "I know you have a female cosmonaut, do you think she'll fly on the space station like I did?" To which he replied, "You know, I don't think women should fly in space."

The colonel said, if she had the benefit of gravity at that moment, her jaw would've hit the floor. "I trained with him for four years and had been living with the guy in space for five months and I never realized he held this personal bias," she said. The moral of the story she said, "He decided the greater good

of the mission based on how things were presented to him was to never, ever let his bias surface because it would be nothing but destructive to the entire nature of everything we were about and everything we were trying to do."

She added to that moral, "It's human nature to have personal biases, but the question you have to ask yourself is... 'by bringing this bias to the table, am I in fact hurting the common agenda?'"

Her final anecdote was based on adherence to checklist discipline. A shuttle crew was running tight on time and needed to release a satellite. When only one person did a job two people were to have a hand in, programming for the satellite suffered. When the satellite was released, instead of beginning its orbit, it started to tumble. The shuttle commander took off after it and tried to recapture it until he exhausted several gallons of propellant. Not realizing he was jeopardizing the possibility of not landing upon re-entry because he lacked the fuel to do so, the commander put the crew and the mission in danger.

Colonel Helms said the moral of this story was, "It's easy to look good when

things are going well. Where you really get a window into your soul is when you get out of your comfort zone..." she also said, "How you react (in dark situations) can be managed by thinking about (them) ahead of time."

Colonel Helms attributes her success to her being "super normal."

"When people find out I've been to space... (they) match me up with their ideal of what an astronaut is like. I have to remind them that astronauts are not super humans, (they) are actually super normal people. Going to space, what you really want are people whose physical condition is absolutely normal. You don't want to have anyone with physical anomalies because you don't know how that (might) react in a space environment."

She added that to be super normal, astronauts should have an agreeable personality and no psychological problems since everyone has to be a team player while living and working in close quarters.

The colonel said, "I didn't realize how 'super normal' I was until I got picked up for the program."

Outside runway, from page 1

ing to the base's 300+ daily sorties.

One key issue the CORRAL team faced involved establishing set windows for take-offs and departures for the three types of aircraft. The closed outer runway forced the T-38s and T-1s to share the center runway, which meant establishing hard "windows" for take-offs and landings due to differences in aircraft approach speeds.

"We started planning in July 2004," said Major Dahlke, of the 20-plus member coordination team, which included representatives from each flying squadron in addition to the control tower, RSU, radar approach control, instrument approach, base operations and wing safety. "We knew that by the time we hit Christmas break, we had to have a solid plan on paper, coordinated through all agencies, briefed to all of the aircrews, along with a published in-flight guide."

Although the Operations Group expected to lose 10 to 14 days of student training, each of the training squadrons actually realized gains, finishing right on-schedule with the training timeline.

Major Dahlke credits that accomplishment to a good plan and the flexibility of the squadrons to adjust schedules as needed and work together to make sorties happen.

"The squadrons really had to modify how they did business to meet the new restrictions," Major Dahlke explained. "The T-6s used the runway at Wizard more often. The T-1s conducted more out-and-backs and modified their profiles so as not to come back too early, and the T-38s had to carry more fuel to allow a divert to Kelly in case the center runway closed temporarily, because the inner runway is too short for them to land on. It was a huge effort on everyone's part."

Lt. Col. Ed Proffit, 47th Operations Group deputy commander, echoed that sentiment, taking it a step further.

"In addition to the runway closure, we were all dealing with the T-38 C-model conversion, an Operational Readiness Inspection and planning for an airshow," Colonel Proffit said. "Everyone put forth a huge effort, and Ops really wants to thank the Mission Support Group – contracting, CE, security forces – everyone who was involved in this project, for making it happen and getting it done on time."

Afghanistan, Iraq campaign medals are now available

Per guidance from Air Force Personnel Center, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (ACM) and Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM) are now available for servicemembers.

These medals are to recognize servicemembers who serve or have served in the countries and Afghanistan and Iraq and the contiguous waters and air space.

To be authorized the ACM the military member must have served in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom on or after October 24, 2001 until a future date.

To be authorized the ICM you must have served in direct support of Operation Iraq Freedom on or after March 19 until a future date.

Military members may be awarded the ACM and the ICM in lieu of the GWOT-E and cannot be awarded both for the same action, achievement, or period of service.

To obtain both medals the member must have been assigned, attached, or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive days or for 60 non-consecutive days or meet one of the following criteria:

Either one was engaged in combat or was wounded and had to have been medically evacuated from the area.

If you qualify for these medals contact Airman 1st Class Nicole Chiavuzzi at 298- 4398 to answer further questions or visit the military personnel flight with documentation that you served in OEF or OIF.

(Courtesy Laughlin Military personnel flight)



Laughlin Salutes

SUPT Class 05-08 awards

Daedalian award:
2nd Lt. Ryan Watson

Academic awards, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. David Jeffers
2nd Lt. Anthony Santucci

Academic award, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Aaron Johnson

Flying training award, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Graham Stewart

Flying training award, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. Breck Hale

Citizenship award:
2nd Lt. Anthony Santucci

AETC Commander's Trophy, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Graham Stewart

AETC Commander's Trophy, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. Breck Hale

Fighter/bomber Distinguished Graduate:
2nd Lt. Graham Stewart

Outstanding Officer of Class 05-08:
Capt. Patrick Brady-Lee

Outstanding 2nd Lieutenant Award:
2nd Lt. Miguel Romero

Airlift/tanker Distinguished Graduates:
2nd Lt. Aaron Brister
2nd Lt. Breck Hale

May enlisted Promotions

To Master Sergeant:
■ Cassandra Ableiter, 47th Operations Support Squadron
■ Anthony Hill, 47th Flying Training Wing

STEP promotion to Technical Sergeant:
■ Frank Munderback, 47th

Security Forces Squadron

To Staff Sergeant:
■ Nicolas Hull, 47th OSS
■ Jennifer Pegg, 47th Comptroller Squadron

To Senior Airman Below The Zone:
■ Rebekah Mallery, 47th Communications Squadron

To Senior Airman:
■ Theodore Fitzgerald, 47th OSS
■ Christine Kline, 47th Medical Support Squadron
■ James Taylor, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron
■ Mark Yeates, 47th CS

To Airman 1st Class:
■ Jennifer Howard, 47th CPTS
■ Nikkia Henry, 87th Flying

Training Squadron

■ Dominique McNeely, 87th FTS
■ Crystal Plesea, 47th OSS
■ Justin Roberts, 47th OSS
■ Gregorio Velez, 47th Maintenance Directorate

May re-enlistees:

■ Tech Sgt. Luis Sanchez, 47th OSS
■ Tech. Sgt. Javier Aguirre, 47th Services Division Staff Sgts:
■ Steven Taylor, 47th SVS
■ Fidel Vergara, 47th SFS
■ Joshua Ashton, 47th SFS
■ Senior Airman Brenna Gorney, 47th OSS
■ Eric Morales, 47th SFS
■ Michael Robinson, 47th SFS Senior Airmen:
■ Michelle Kisner, 47th OSS
■ Brian Ficznar, 47th CES



The Air Force rewards good ideas with money.
Check out the **IDEA** Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil> or call **Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mayo** at 298-4355.

American 'Ace' provides inspiration to future fighter pilots

By 1st Lt. Joseph Watson
47th Operations Group

The 87th Flying Training Squadron was honored to host a true American Ace, Brig. Gen. David Lee "Tex" Hill.

This great aviator was the primary focus of the 87th FTS Warrior Call April 29.

General Hill shared his stories and memories with future fighter pilots of the United States Air Force who are currently training in the T-38, a plane whose engine was designed by one of his Flying Tiger friends.

The primary focus of his message to these pilots was that they are the "hope of the world."

General Hill, whose amazing background has allowed him to serve in the Navy, Army, Air Force Reserve, and Texas Air National Guard, flew with the American Volunteer Group called the "Flying Tigers." The Flying Tigers are an elite group of American volunteer aviators who served in South China from Dec. 7, 1941 to July 18, 1942.

General Hill flew the P-40 fighter aircraft during his time there and was credited with destroying 12 of the 650 enemy aircraft that were destroyed by the Flying Tigers, which immediately gave him ace status.

Also, he was personally thanked by then Secretary of the Air Force, Donald



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker

A P-40 fighter aircraft like the one pictured above was flown by Brig. Gen. David Lee "Tex" Hill in the 1940s. He is a World War II Ace.

B. Rice, who stated that his extraordinary performance was a major factor in defeating the enemy invasion of South China.

Furthermore, General Hill shared his experiences as a Naval aviator on the USS Saratoga, the USS Ranger, his recruitment into the Flying Tigers, and his battlefield commission into the Army Air Force. He emphasized the simplicity and brilliance of the flying tactics which were used by the Flying Tigers, stating that a simple two-ship formation, and not letting back on the throttle, were the most effective tactics in South China, due to a target-rich environment.

He further noted that all the technological advances of today's aircraft amaze him. He said he could remember when it was as simple as pulling up 50 feet behind the enemy and leaning on the trigger until they dropped, then

moving to the next one.

Another of the most efficient tactics used by the Flying Tigers was to take the fight to the ground. Some of the Japanese aircraft could out-maneuver and out-gun the P-40 and P-51, but they didn't have a chance against the Flying Tigers when they located their home bases and strafed their airfields.

He shared an account of one occasion where 70 Japanese fighters were destroyed on the ground, solving many problems for the American pilots in the air.

Capt. Charles Kistler, T-38 instructor pilot and 47th Operations Group executive officer said, "I was honored to meet General Hill previously, and still feel inspired by his stories and experiences."

2nd Lt. Jason Depew, a T-38 student pilot, said, "I have a new appreciation for the capabilities of the World

War II era aircraft, and the skills of their pilots."

After receiving his commission into the Army Air Force he was personally recalled to China by Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault, who flew with him before as the leader of the Flying Tigers, and put as the commander of the 23rd Fighter Group.

During this time he was credited with the destruction of an additional six enemy aircraft. He left the Army Air Force in 1945 and joined the Texas Air National Guard to command the newly formed 58th Fighter Wing – becoming the youngest brigadier general ever to serve in the Guard.

General Hill insists that he is not a hero, stating, "We weren't super people, just normal folks. The POWs and those folks were the heroes." However he has earned several distinctive medals from his exploits in fighter aircraft to include the Silver Star, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, and two Air Medals earned in the Army Air Force.

He earned a British Distinguished Flying Cross and numerous awards and decorations from the Chinese government. Brigadier General "Tex" Hill is an active member of the Flying Tigers Association and the American Fighter Aces Association, and he currently lives with his wife, Mazie, in San Antonio, Texas.

He is truly an example of humility and excellence.

Servicemembers can earn more money while deployed

By Army Capt. Patrick Sampsell
208th Finance Battalion

Do you remember when you were young being told "nothing good is ever free," and "if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is"?

The U.S. government offers any servicemember serving in a designated combat zone, qualified hazardous duty area, or directly supporting of a combat zone, an opportunity to participate in a savings program that is free, guaranteed and fully backed by the U.S. government.

Whether active duty, Reserve or National Guard, servicemembers are eligible to contribute up to \$10,000 to a no-risk, no-fee, program that pays 10 percent annual interest, compounded quarterly. Moreover, they can

leave funds in the program for up to 90 days after redeployment and the account will continue to draw interest.

Servicemembers are able to contribute to their Savings Deposit Program account on a monthly basis. The maximum amount per month is limited to the individual's unallotted income, the amount remaining after the collection and payment of all existing taxes, allotments and debt obligations. Deposits to the program made on or before the 10th of the month accrue interest from the 1st of the month. Deposits made after the 10th of the month accrue interest from the first day of the following month.

Servicemembers are able to make deposits into the program after serving 30 consecutive days in a designated area or by spending one day per month

for three consecutive months in a designated area. To establish an account, visit the local finance office with a current Leave and Earnings Statement and make a deposit by cash, check or money order. With an appropriate power of attorney, outside parties can make deposits into the program, as long as it does not exceed the servicemember's monthly disposable income.

There are limitations on when the money may be withdrawn. It is intended that deposits made remain in the program at least until the person redeployes or moves. Withdrawals are limited during the time within the designated area to those necessary to preserve the health or welfare of the servicemember or their family. Additionally, any interest accruing in the account which causes the account to exceed \$10,000 may be with-

drawn quarterly. Money must be withdrawn within 90 days of exiting the designated area. Interest will be accrued for as long as 90 days after redeployment.

After 90 days, the money no longer accrues interest, but no penalties will be assessed either. The balance of the account will automatically be sent to the address provided by the account holder. To stop the allotment for the program, people must submit a DD Form 2558 upon arrival at home station.

The program provides a safe, no risk opportunity for servicemembers to earn a considerable interest benefit while serving in a combat zone, qualified hazardous duty area, or while participating in certain contingency operations directly supporting a combat zone.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi



Fresh brew and deli too...

Maricela Iniguez, a supervisor at Silverwings, located on the 2nd floor of Building 308, prepares a cup of Starbucks coffee for a customer here Wednesday. The Silverwings snackbar, open to all ranks, civilians, retirees, and dependents, opened Monday and now serves customers Starbucks coffee and deli sandwiches. To place orders or for more information, call 298-5661.

Living wills are matter of choice

Compiled by the Laughlin legal office

The recent legal and legislative battles over the fate of Terry Schiavo force us to ask ourselves some tough questions.

What would you want if you were her? Does your family know? Who would decide? What can you do to make your wishes known – and more importantly – enforced?

The Texas Health and Safety Code 166.039 states: "If an adult qualified patient has not executed or issued a directive and is incompetent or otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication, the attending physician and the patient's legal guardian or an agent under a medial power of attorney may make a treatment decision that may include a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment from the patient."

If there is no directive nor an agent or guardian, a panel of physicians can make an independent judgment as to whether to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment.

In other words, if you don't make the choice now, others will make the choice for you later. Make a choice, now!

A living will is not part of your last will and testament at all. It is a



separate document, also known as an advance medical directive or declaration. This document states that if you are diagnosed with a terminal, incurable condition, you are authorizing physicians to remove life support.

The conditions that trigger the living will and the extent of the medical care to be withdrawn vary significantly from state to state.

A medical power of attorney may also authorize a person you designate to direct the course of your medical care, and this may include some termination of life support decisions as well. Contact the base legal office to meet with a legal assistance attorney who can help answer your questions and draft the documents you need to reflect your choices on the removal or extension of life support.



Photo by Gerry J. Gilmore

Army Master Sgt. Kevin K. Thibeault writes why he loves the commissary onto a message board set up in a Pentagon hallway Monday. May is Commissary Awareness Month.

Commissary ranks among servicemembers' best benefits

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON — Shopping at military commissaries is a prime perk for servicemembers and their families, a senior noncommissioned officer said at an Defense Commissary Agency-sponsored exhibit at the Pentagon on Monday.

Army Master Sgt. Kevin K. Thibeault said the ability to shop at commissaries ranks among "one of the best benefits" of military service.

Sergeant Thibeault, a native of Beecher Falls, Vt., and father of four children, is preparing to retire after 22 years of service. The NCO plans to continue to shop at commissaries after retirement, he said,

because commissaries offer below-market-value prices.

"And they're the only ones who do that," he emphasized.

May is Commissary Awareness Month, said Bonnie J. Powell, a DeCA marketing specialist who greeted Sergeant Thibeault and other visitors at a table filled with commissary literature set along a Pentagon hallway.

People were invited to write why they love the commissary on a nearby message board. Sergeant Thibeault wrote: "Thank you for the support. 1 of our best benefits! - MSG T"

Two costumed DeCA mascots, "Private Pickle" and "Kool-Aid Man," Powell said, would be on hand during the day to greet the public. The

DeCA promotion team returns to the Pentagon May 16, she said.

Powell pointed out that commissary customers get great value for their money and could expect an average savings on their grocery purchases of 30 percent or more.

Retired Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Kathy Taylor, who stopped by Powell's display table, said she appreciates her commissary benefit.

"I think its pretty good, pricewise," Taylor noted, adding, "I do a lot of saving" at the commissary.

The agency is also planning to set up a display on Washington's National Mall this week as part of the military's expansive array of equipment for annual Public Service Recognition Week.

Promotion study guides hit streets in May

By 1st Lt. Denise Burnham
*Air Education and Training Command
public affairs*

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE — The latest edition of enlisted promotion study guides will hit the streets by the end of May, Air Education and Training Command officials here said.

Both the Promotion Fitness Examination and the U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination, officially known as Volumes 1 and 2 of Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, are used by senior airmen through senior master sergeants to study for promotion.

"The PFEs are shipped overseas first and then throughout the United States with final distribution on the East Coast since the distribution center is located there," said Master Sgt. Gary Billington, the Air Force manager for the PFE study guide at the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron, which writes the PFE. "This helps ensure everyone has the book in hand at approximately the same time."

The goal, Sergeant Billington said, is to have study materials in the hands of promotion-eligible Airmen by July 1. The material will be distributed with the following priority:

- Senior master sergeants testing in cycle 05E9.
- Master sergeants testing in cycle 06E8.
- Staff and technical sergeants testing in cycle 06E6 and 06E7.
- Senior airmen testing in cycle 06E5.
- All remaining enlisted Airmen.

The electronic version of both guides will be available online by July 1 at www.epublishing.af.mil/.

Unit Weighted Airmen Promotion System monitors will distribute the study guides to assigned Airmen, whether at home station or deployed. It is the WAPS monitor's responsibility to send the guides to Airmen deployed, Sergeant Billington said.

A significant change is that Volume 2 now includes Volume 1. In the past, master and senior master sergeants received both study guides. Senior airmen, staff sergeants and technical sergeants will continue to receive Volume 1 only.

Both guides contain a compact disk located on the back cover that includes an electronic version and a five-minute video about AFOMS and how promotion tests are developed.

Updated information about counseling, communication and Air Force organizations is included in the PFE. Sergeant Billington said they placed more emphasis on enlisted contributions in Air Force his-

tory and added new information about military benefits, the virtual military personnel flight and nutrition.

Changes to the supervisory guide include new information about contingency warfare planning and critical thinking, and chapters on staff-level communication and civilian personnel management.

Changes to the study guides begin more than two years before they are published.

"We are already developing the 2007 PFE," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael O'Neill, the AFOMS professional development flight chief.

"Beginning 29 months before the new PFEs hit the streets, (Airmen) are asked to participate in an online survey," Sergeant Billington said. "The survey results are then used to revise the study guides and ultimately write promotion tests based on feedback from the field."

"Many people don't know that these surveys are a way for Airmen in the field to make their input on future promotion tests," he said.

Once ready, the guides are approved by the Air Force personnel director for final release. Unlike a standard Air Force instruction, once the PFE is final, changes are made only when the document is reviewed and republished every two years, Sergeant Billington said.

Enlisted members enjoy Dorm World II events



Photos by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

First place winners of this year's Dorm World II competition, Airman Harley Brydon and Master Sgt. Robert Bone vie with other competitors during a three-legged race of the championship round of the events Saturday.

(Bottom) Airman Robert Ashford puts a pie in the face of Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos during the Dorm World II events Saturday.



By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

Enlisted dorm residents and their supervisors turned out for fun and challenging competition during this year's Dorm World 2 events held Saturday.

Dorm World, an Air Education and Training Command initiative, is an annual event that provides permanent-party dorm residents an opportunity to compete in a series of contests against other dorms for prizes.

Dorm residents paired with their supervisors during an obstacle course that consisted of a potato sack race, egg toss, volleyball carry, and an around-the-bat event, then a sprint to the finish.

That determined three pairs of finalists for the championship round which included a potato sack race, supervisor pie-in-the-face event, bobbing for apples, tricycle race, three-legged race, around-the-bat event, then residents carried supervisors on their back in race to the finish.

Participants and Overall Winners

in the Obstacle Course Finals were:

First Place: Airman Harley Brydon and Master Sgt. Robert Bone

Second Place: Airman 1st Class Robert Ashford and Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos

Third Place: Airman 1st Class Romeo Tcheutchua and Staff Sgt. Scott Fooshee.

Gift certificates and various prizes were awarded to winners.



Staff Sgt. Scott Fooshee joins events during the tricycle race of Saturday in Dorm World II competition.

Airman inspired by father's service

Mobility flight technician gains from father's maturity and work ethic

By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan
509th Bomb Wing public affairs

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — In her homeland, Airman 1st Class Duong Ngo looked over countless rows of rice crops while growing up on the south Vietnamese countryside in rural Ben Tre.

Today, she looks over rows of deployment equipment at the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron mobility warehouse here.

The mobility flight technician tracks the shelf life of items such as gas masks, gloves and mask canisters for more than 2,000 mobility bags. She is the liaison for the mobility inventory control and accountability system, a position normally filled by a seasoned noncommissioned officer. Airman Ngo also trains her peers on the system.

"She is tasked with more work than anyone in (the) mobility (flight)," said Staff Sgt. Cheron Nieves, her supervisor. "She's the best Airman I've ever worked for or worked with. She's mature for her age."

Part of her maturity and work ethic comes from her father, 63-year-old Xe Ngo, who served as a captain in the South Vietnamese army 1968 to 1975,

she said. Her father led a South Vietnamese infantry company against the North Viet Cong communist armies during the Vietnam War.

"That's part of why I'm in the service right now," said the 20-year-old.

After the war, North Vietnamese troops put Airman Ngo's father along



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ryan Wilson

Airman 1st Class Duong Ngo checks a mobility bag here. Airman Ngo, whose father served during the Vietnam War, migrated from communist Vietnam to the U.S. in 1993.

with thousands of South Vietnamese soldiers in concentration camps. He was not released from the camp until six years later. Stripped of his military rank and with only a few belongings, Mr. Ngo started a rice farm, where the family lived until 1993.

Airman Ngo said her father told her stories about families of South Vietnamese soldiers who were slain only because the soldiers served the South Vietnamese army. She said hearing about her father's experiences helps her appreciate her life in America.

"I just value things more in life," she said. "I'm lucky I didn't go through what he did in his generation. It makes me see things in a different way. I don't take things for granted."

Airman Ngo said her last memories of her home in Vietnam were chasing crabs that crept onto the family farm with friends and fishing on a stream in her front yard. She lived in Ben Tre until she was 8 years old.

In 1993, the U.S. government awarded Mr. Ngo and his family passage to the United States for his military service during the war and his time in the camp. So, Mr. Ngo, his wife, Mai Bui, and their six children left Vietnam for Amarillo, Texas.

As an elementary student in a new country, Airman Ngo said she had trouble making friends. She knew only a few English words.

"It was kind of hard just trying to communicate with other people at school," Airman Ngo said.

But a year later, she said English began to come easily to her.

"I like learning new things and meeting new people," she said.

Her ability to learn new skills quickly carried over to her duties in the mobility flight section, she said.

Airman Ngo set her goals high not only in the work place, but the classroom. She said she plans to major in biology after graduating from a community college, with dreams of attending medical school.

In 2001, her father suffered damage to his hearing after bumping his head in a traffic accident. Unable to continue his job at a meat packing plant in Amarillo, her mother had to shoulder the workload, raising Airman Ngo's three younger siblings.

"He's never been the same," Airman Ngo said. "(My father's illness) is very hard on the family."

Because of this, Airman Ngo sends her mother \$200 a month. She said if her parents had not make the sacrifice of leaving their home, she would not enjoy the freedoms and quality of life she does today.

"I would probably still be working on the farm," she said.

And, probably still standing amid rows of rice crops.

New commander takes reigns of 47th Operations Group

Compiled from staff reports

Today, Team XL welcomes a new 47th Operations Group commander, Col. David E. Petersen, to the 47th Flying Training Wing.

Hometown: Hoffman Estates, Ill.

Time in service: 21 years

Education: Bachelor of Science U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Master of Military Arts and Science - US Army Command and General Staff College, and Master of Strategic Studies - Air War College

Previous assignments: Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin Air Force Base, Student, Lead in fighter training, Holloman AFB, N.M., 1989; - F-15 transition training- Tyndall AFB, Fla., 1989.

Other assignments include: 32nd Fighter Group, Soesterberg Air Base, the Netherlands; 493rd Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England; U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ft.



Colonel Petersen

Leavenworth, Kan.; 60th Fighter Squadron, Eglin AFB, Fla.; 85th Operations Squadron, Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland; Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Air Land Sea Application Center, Langley, AFB, Va.

Greatest feat: Being part of the national champion skydiving team

Leadership philosophy: People first - If you don't correctly organize, train, equip, and care for the people, the mission will fail.

Personal hero: My dad

Favorite quote: Be prepared.

Favorite movie: Don't have one.

Hobbies: Working out and kid activities

Bad habit: Eating snickers bars

What or who has inspired you most in life and why?: My dad; He demonstrated daily what we now call the Air Force core values. He was a great example of a man, and a father. He loved aviation but never pushed it on my brothers and I, but it definitely sparked my interest in flying at a young age



Senior Airman Nicholas Salazar
47th Security Forces Squadron



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

Hometown: Lubbock, Texas

Family: Wife, Dianna

Time at Laughlin: 3 years, 1 month

Time in service: 3 years, 8 months

Greatest accomplishment: Getting married to my beautiful wife, Dianna

Hobbies: Reading, watching movies and going to the gym

Bad habit: Biting my fingernails

Favorite movies: "Passion of the Christ" and "Gladiator"

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My dad. he has been having problems with his health.

“Senior Airman Salazar is committed to giving the best customer service possible, sometimes sacrificing his own personal time by opening early and staying open late to help those customers who work odd hours. He is one man who runs at least a two man shop without complaint and always with a smile.**”**

- 2nd Lt. Jason Hardy,
47th Security Forces
Squadron



Photo by 2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston

One scoop or two?...

Majs. Michael Greiner and Gary Barlet, commanders of the 47th Comptroller and 47th Communications Squadrons respectively, serve 1st Lt. Tiffany Ewton, 47th Mission Support Group, a scoop of ice cream during an ice-cream social here April 28. The ice-cream social was to honor all Laughlin volunteers.

Nashville star contestant visits Laughlin

Compiled from staff reports

Miranda Lambert, who appeared on Nashville Star in 2003 and whose songs are climbing the country music charts, performed for Laughlin members Sunday in a concert sponsored by the Spirit of America Tour.

The concert which honors Laughlin members, took place at the base football field. After her performance she signed autographs for base members.



Col. Tod D. Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, presents Miranda Lambert and Robert Rosenthal framed posters used to promote Lambert's concert here Sunday. Miranda Lambert, a Nashville Star contestant, performed here as part of the Spirit of America Tour.

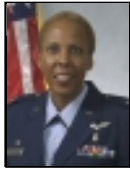


Nashville Star contestant Miranda Lambert and her band performed for base members here Sunday as part of the Spirit of America Tour.



Photos by Jose Mendoza

Miranda Lambert, a Nashville Star contestant, autographs a poster for a base member after her performance here Sunday.



What's up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
*47th Medical Group
commander*

Question: I get very frustrated when I call to make an appointment and all of your lines are busy. A friend of mine says that she was able to make an appointment by going to a web site on-line.

What is the web site and how can I make an appointment with it?

Answer: I am very sorry you have had frustrating experiences with our appointment line. For the past few months we have been diligently working out the technical glitches in our system, but unfortunately, there are still significant periods where we are not serving our customers well. The great news is that, yes, you have an alternative!

Our newest health care partner is

www.tricareonline.com. It's a secure web site that you can access anytime, anywhere, from any laptop or personal computer. You can schedule routine appointments with your primary care manager, view customized clinic and provider web pages, and access 18 million pages of health and wellness information.

Future improvements will include the capacity for you to have Web-based pharmacy renewals and Web-based health assessments.

If you're a Tricare Prime or Tricare Plus beneficiary, it's really as simple as the click of a mouse....just go to www.tricareonline.com and you're on your way. Thank you for your question!

If you need additional information regarding your Tricare benefits, please contact Mrs. Michelle Gillans at 298-6350.

You can contact our Family Care provider on call for advice and authorization for emergency care from 4:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, weekends and holidays at 703-6199.

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil if you have a What's Up Doc? question.

DoD to resume anthrax vaccine

The Department of Defense will resume its Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program, officials said Tuesday.

A memorandum signed April 29 allows military commanders to resume the vaccination program using the emergency use authorization conditions issued by the Food and Drug Administration on Jan. 27, 2005.

The program requires commanders to follow EUA conditions very carefully, providing members of the armed services both education on the program and an option to refuse the vaccination without penalty.

This significant step allows the department to resume this vital protection measure for servicemembers who are at increased risk of exposure to anthrax attack, said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant

secretary of defense for health affairs.

On April 6, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted the government's motion to modify the court's AVIP injunction against mandatory anthrax vaccination from Oct. 27, 2004.

Once vaccinations begin, DOD will provide an education and information program, including an FDA-approved brochure, to inform potential vaccine recipients and healthcare providers that FDA has authorized the emergency use of anthrax vaccine to prevent inhalation anthrax. People will also be informed about the vaccine's benefits and side effects before they are asked to decide about vaccination.

*(Courtesy Air Force
Print News)*

**XL Fitness
Center
hours**

**Call
298-5251**

Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.
**Saturday
and
Sunday:**
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.